

Hi, I'm Jeanette Nuñez, president of Florida International University, and I want to welcome you to the 2025 Human Trafficking Summit.

FIU is honored to serve as the educational partner for this summit and to join survivors, advocates, legal representatives, law enforcement, service providers, health professionals, and the public in the fight against human trafficking.

Thank you to Attorney General James Uthmeier for his commitment to putting an end to this heinous crime.

Florida has long been a leader in working to eradicate human trafficking and to protect Floridians.

As a former legislator and lieutenant governor of the State of Florida, I have seen firsthand what Florida has accomplished by establishing a Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, increasing training and education, strengthening penalties for traffickers, enhancing protections for minor victims, increasing resources and services for victims and survivors, and we know there is always more we can do.

As a preeminent top 50 major public research university, FIU is also a partner in this fight.

At FIU, our law enforcement officers are trained to identify and respond to potential incidents of trafficking and collaborate with other agencies to crack down on this crime.

Through our Global Forensic and Justice Center, we also provide specialized training to domestic and international partners, military, educators and law enforcement on evidence collection, victim identification, and forensic intelligence, which includes scenarios involving trafficking and smuggling.

In addition, FIU supports the development of investigative tools and analytical frameworks that assist prosecutors and investigators in building human trafficking cases.

Our faculty across multiple disciplines, including public health, law, international relations, and criminal justice focus their research on prevention, victim services, and understanding trafficking trends, especially in high-risk regions across this nation and world.

Throughout this summit, it is my hope that you will gain the knowledge, skills, and resources to protect Floridians from human trafficking.

Thank you.